

Air Quality Protection Strategy

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Department of Environmental Protection

Montgomery County, Maryland

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From the County Executive

Montgomery County is a nationally recognized leader in its commitment to environmental quality, and with development of this *Montgomery County Air Quality Protection Strategy*, we have completed blueprints for



reducing pollutant levels and preserving our streams, groundwater, forests, and now air. The health of our residents and businesses is jeopardized by air pollution, and the cost of inaction is too great. This *Air Quality Protection Strategy* outlines eight realistic, step-by-step actions that we can take to reduce air pollutants, including harmful levels of ground-level ozone and particulate matter. *The Montgomery County Air Quality Protection Strategy* should help us preserve our quality of life, while serving as a model for other local governments.

Douglas M. Duncan

Montgomery County Executive

From the DEP Director

The guiding principle behind this important new strategy is that protecting and improving air quality is a community effort: no single jurisdiction can make a difference without the cooperation of the entire region. No single government agency can hope to improve air quality without the determined cooperation of residents and businesses, each learning what they can do as part of a whole, working with us — and working together.

James A. Caldwell

Director, Department of Environmental Protection